United Nations A/71/155

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 July 2016

Original: English

Seventy-first session
Item 9 of the provisional agenda*
Report of the Economic and Social Council

United Nations Population Award, 2016

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report of the Secretary of the Committee for the United Nations Population Award. The report covers the year 2016 and was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1982/112.

* A/71/150.

16-12263 (E) 010816

Please recycle

Report of the Secretary of the Committee for the United Nations Population Award on the United Nations Population Award, 2016

I. Introduction

1. On 17 December 1981, the General Assembly adopted resolution 36/201, entitled "Establishment of the United Nations Population Award". The Award is presented annually to an individual or individuals, to an institution or institutions, or to any combination thereof, for the most outstanding contribution to increasing awareness of population questions or to finding solutions to them.

2. The Committee for the United Nations Population Award selects the laureate for the Award. The Committee is composed of representatives of 10 States Members of the United Nations, elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of three years. The Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund acts as Secretary of the Committee and submits to the General Assembly an annual report on the Award and its Trust Fund.

3. In its decision 41/445, the General Assembly amended article 2, paragraph 1, of the regulations governing the Award so that an individual and an institution could share the Award.

4. In its decision 1987/129, the Economic and Social Council amended the rules of procedure of the Committee accordingly.

5. The current elected members of the Committee are Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Benin, the Gambia, Ghana, Haiti, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Paraguay and Poland.

6. During its organizational meeting, on 7 April 2016, the Committee elected Marcelo Scappini Ricciardi (Paraguay) as Chair for 2016.

II. United Nations Population Award, 2016

7. The Committee received 17 nominations from qualified nominators for the 2016 Award. Of these, 10 were for the individual category and 7 for the institutional category. On 26 April 2016, in accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly, and after a thorough review of the nominations, the Committee selected Carmen Barroso of Brazil in the individual category and the Childbirth with Dignity Foundation of Poland in the institutional category.

A. Individual category

8. The Committee selected Ms. Barroso in recognition of her outstanding leadership in developing programmes, funding and policies relating to sexual and reproductive health and rights, for mobilizing the voices of people in the South on those issues and for her published reflections on integrating sexual and reproductive health and rights as a holistic and rights-based response to women's empowerment and development.

9. Ms. Barroso has been actively involved in reproductive health and population issues for more than four decades. As head of the MacArthur Foundation's population and reproductive health programme, she funded hundreds of local organizations in Africa, Asia and Latin America and was instrumental in bringing experiences and voices from the global South to the historic International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo in 1994. As head of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, Western Hemisphere Region, Ms. Barroso dramatically increased the participation of young people from Latin America and the Caribbean in programmes and key United Nations negotiations and oversaw a network of 40 local partners that provided nearly 28 million services annually.

10. Ms. Barroso, who has served on the boards of organizations and international commissions, is the Co-Chair of the Panel on Gender and Health of the Pan American Health Organization. She is also a member of the independent Expert Review Group on Accountability for Women's and Children's Health, appointed by the Secretary-General.

B. Institutional category

11. The Committee selected the Childbirth with Dignity Foundation in recognition of its strong advocacy of and support for the rights of women and newborns for more than 19 years. The efforts of the Foundation have led to improvements in the treatment of women in Polish hospitals, allowing them to give birth with dignity.

12. Operating through national campaigns and other forms of advocacy, the Foundation has empowered women, as patients, to demand their rights in relation to childbirth and has supported the promotion of quality care, thereby ensuring the implementation of international obstetrics standards.

13. The Foundation is internationally recognized for its special contribution to improving the quality of perinatal care and to raising women's awareness of their rights.

III. Financial matters

14. As at 31 December 2015, the Trust Fund of the United Nations Population Award had a total fund balance of $1,746,571.33. Interest income in 2015 was $12,829.69. Expenditure in 2016, including prizes awarded to the two laureates, totalled $98,562.88.